



## St. Augustine Orchid Society

[www.staugorchidsociety.org](http://www.staugorchidsociety.org)

### Spring Repotting

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[Orchid Growing Tips](#)

No matter what the weather is like, spring begins this month when the Equinox arrives with 12 hours of daylight. More important is the fact that the day length is increasing; a stimulus for many different kinds, of orchids, which begin flowering, growing new leaves, roots, etc. It is also a very busy, time for orchid hobbyists.

Hobbyists can take advantage of the growth cycle of many orchids by repotting those that need to be moved to new quarters. If you have done your winter homework and gotten all of the supplies you can begin this month.

Ideally, cattleyas should be repotted just as they begin new root growth.

Most unifoliate cattleya species and hybrids can be repotted now and will begin to get new roots very soon after they are in their new surroundings even if they have not initiated new root growth yet. Avoid repotting bifoliate cattleyas unless new root tips have started, no matter what the time of year.

Most common vandaceous orchids love the heat and do not grow new roots or grow much unless the temperature is warm, 70 F or higher. Once air temperature at night stays higher than 65 F, root growth will continue and even accelerate with the heat and longer days. New baskets or pots are in order as soon as your growing space is warm enough.

Many phalaenopsis are now in bloom and should not be repotted until they finish. If plants are large, repotting can wait until the main flowering season is over without harming the plants or limiting flowering next year. If, however, the plant is showing signs of stress or is small it will need to be repotted earlier. Cut the flower spike off near the base of the plant and repot by the end of April, which will give the plant some time to recover before the heat of summer begins. Repotting small phals a little earlier will allow them to accumulate more new leaves and roots so they can flower as mature plants next year.

Put cut flower spikes in water and enjoy the flowers a little longer. If you cut the bottom of the spike off a quarter inch every couple of days, the flowers will last a little longer. An 81 mg aspirin in the water will also help flowers last longer.